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from 1,542 in the year 1913 to 3,279 in the year 1918.¹⁶

THE CHILDREN AND THE AGE-PYRAMID

Not less deplorable but still much more serious if we contemplate the future of the Austrian population, is the health of the children. In an examination of 144,947 school children made by Professor Pirquet at the request of the American Help the Children Administration in the year 1920, only 30,594 equal to 21.1 per cent, were found to be well fed; 81,287, equal to 56.1 per cent, were marked as "ill-fed"; 33,066 children, or 22.8 per cent, were put down as "very ill-fed." Also in other towns of Austria measurements were made with similar unfavorable results.¹⁷

The health of the infants is a matter for even graver consideration. According to a report of Dr. Poerner at the Congress for Jugendfürsorge which met in Vienna in July, 1921, 85,000 children up to six years of age were

¹⁶ Publications, etc., VIII, page 35.

¹⁷ See: Friedrich Reischl, *Die amerikanische Kinderhilfsaktion in Wien*, Vol. I-III, Vienna 1921.

assigned for medical examination by the *Mutterberatungsstellen*, mothers advice councils, in the year 1920. Of these but 10 per cent were in the condition of normal nourishment, while the nourishment of 90 per cent was disturbed, 60 per cent being really ill. Children with infectious diseases were excluded from the examination. In 19 per cent of these cases one or both of the parents were ill; in 3½ per cent, incurable.

Thus we may trace the terrible destitution working havoc at every stage of life and aggravating the heavy wounds inflicted by the War. The children forming the base of a once proud age-pyramid are growing up, small in numbers and shaken in health. Indeed an appalling outlook on future possibilities opens up before the observant eye should the present economic distress be allowed to continue. We will however not abandon ourselves to such gloomy aspects of the future; we will rather be confident of an improvement in the economic situation and hope for a more favorable evolution of the population.

CHAPTER II

The Present State of Agriculture and Forestry in the Republic of Austria

Compiled by the Central Board for the Protection of the Interests of Agriculture and Forestry

THE fundamental conditions of Austrian agriculture and the food supply closely connected with it, are in the first instance to be looked for in the orographic and climatic situation of the country. With the exception of a few small districts Austria is a mountainous land, with a prevailing continental and Alpine climate

Of a total area of about 7,785,295 hectare¹ nearly 800,000 are unproductive, so that only 7,000,000 hectare of the whole area are cultivated. Of these, 2,947,000 hectare are covered with forests, 1,274,000, with pastures, Alpine pastures, lakes, swamps and

¹ One hectare = 10,000 square meters = 2.471 acres.

ponds, and do not count for intensive cultivation. There remains only a comparatively small area of 2,770,000 hectare for intensive cultivation. Of these, again, 1,790,000 are arable soil, and the rest meadows, gardens and vineyards.

Austrian agriculture consists chiefly in the production of grain as far as permitted by the orographic and climatic conditions: namely, over an area of about 780,000 hectare; the greater portion of this area serves to grow rye. It may be well to remember that Western Hungary is not included in these figures, as this territory has so far not been actually united with the Austrian Republic.

A clearer insight into the alarming falling off in agricultural production may be gained if we point out how completely Austrian soil has been exhausted by the piratical system of tillage practised, of necessity, during the War. Between the years 1913 and 1919, the crops were estimated at from 35 to 40 per cent below normal. Official investigations in 1919 have shown a yield of only one-half the yield of grain in former times.

Although the experience of pre-war time would justify the hope of considerable improvement in the rentability of land, the fact remains that Austria will always be dependent on foreign imports of grain. That no effort is spared in bringing about such an improvement is demonstrated by an action inaugurated by the government and supported by a lively propaganda on the part of all agricultural bodies, especially the association of Austrian husbandmen (*Landwirstestelle*), to provide a cheap supply of all kinds of manure.

It goes without saying, that every importation of grain to meet the requirement of the Austrian populace means an enormous burden for the

public finances of Austria, in view of the present rate of the kronen exchange. This is why the government continues to control the production and trade in grain, even though such control doubtless means a serious impediment to the revival of agriculture. Since it compels the farmers to deliver a great percentage of their crops at government prices, which are far below those in the foreign markets, it is only natural that the peasants regard government control as a grave injustice and peril.

Now that the flour ration is so small the potato crops are of increasing importance. Official statistics show that, altogether, 97,000 hectare were utilized for growing potatoes in 1919. The potato crops have suffered a yet greater reduction than those of grain; this reduction may be estimated at about 50 per cent as compared with pre-war times. Great efforts were made to raise the home production. These resulted in the government's importing seed potatoes from abroad, chiefly from England, at a great sacrifice. The imported potatoes were handed over to the farmers together with the requisite quantities of artificial manure.

We may make a similar observation regarding leguminous plants, the importance of which has been augmented in proportion to the reduced rations of bread and flour. Austria lost her chief districts for growing leguminous plants when Bohemia, Moravia and Galicia were separated from her after the break-down. It must further be noted that according to official statistics the yield of leguminous plants had diminished by one-third during the war as compared with pre-war times.

From what has been said above, we may gather that the yields of Austrian soil will never entirely suffice to meet the requirements at home even

if we admit the possibility of an improvement in the future by proper tillage and investment of capital. The future hopes of Austria concerning agriculture are founded on the breeding of cattle, for which the conditions are much more favorable. Here we may be allowed to point out the large stretches of pasture in the Alps, the favorable climate for breeding strong and hardy cattle and the training of the cattle farmers, which dates back some hundreds of years.

Unfortunately, here as elsewhere, the War with its compulsory delivery produced great damage, less affecting the quantity than the quality of the live stock. A great diminution is to be observed in the number of horses; by the official statistics, only 230,000 horses were counted in the Republic of Austria in 1919, while at that time there were 1,950,000 head of horned cattle, of which 550,000 were young cattle. A considerable increase is shown in the number of goats which reached 289,000 in 1919, that is about 50,000 more than in pre-war times; likewise in the number of sheep, with 316,000 head against 290,000 head in pre-war times. The stock of pigs is to be estimated at 1,100,000 head against 1,800,000 before the war.

As mentioned above, the qualitative loss was more apparent. The fact that the present live stock is not full-grown and that the number of animals used in the yoke, such as horses and oxen, has been reduced, is of the gravest import to Austrian farming. Another difficulty is the obstacle to breeding added by the indiscriminate requisitions during the long years of the War, which often deprived the farmers of their best breeding material. Moreover, the complete stoppage of transport for other than military purposes prevented the exchange of cattle, so that in-

breeding was favored to an appalling degree. Even during the first period of peace, the great difficulties in procuring food caused the provinces, the districts and the communities within them to set up barriers against the export of cattle. Only quite recently has it proved possible in many instances to remove some of these measures of isolation. It may, however, be expected that the mutual intercourse between the various districts, so important to a cattle breeding country, will revive again. But even then cattle breeding will suffer great difficulties from the want of concentrated forage.

In conclusion, we may say that in all branches of agriculture there is a large disparity between supply and demand, and that Austrian agriculture will never be in a position to supply sufficient food for the people although, thanks to incessant labor, improvement has already commenced and a further improvement may be expected.

THE FORESTRY SITUATION IN AUSTRIA

The prospects of forestry are a little more favorable. An area of three million hectare of Austrian soil are covered with forests, so that about 38 per cent of the total area of Austria is devoted to forestry. We should, however, be induced to form very erroneous notions of Austrian wealth in wood if we forget to add that according to official statistics about 20 per cent of these forests are either inaccessible or declared a sort of preserves, *Servituten*, wherein no trees may be felled. We must therefore first eliminate this fairly large portion of the forests before contemplating the chances of utilizing the wood. The exploitation of about 20 per cent of Austrian forests is partly conceded to the peasants on the strength of the right of *Servitut* and therefore the gen-

erally available production is limited.

If wood may rightly be called the principal article for export in Austria, one must not forget that continuation of this export has been possible only on account of the large stock which had accumulated thanks to the conservative forestry system of pre-war times. Owing to this large reserve stock Austria is still able to export wood despite its being used as fuel to a much greater extent than before. It will soon follow, as a matter of course, that highly valuable timber will have to be used as fuel and great damage will ensue to the economics of the Republic.

The efforts of the Austrian Government have been so far successful in bringing about an improvement of the coal supply of the country. There is reason to hope, therefore, that the prophesied economic harm may not result but that, on the contrary, Austria's natural riches in wood may in the future suffice to meet the demands both foreign and domestic.

The problem of recolonization has developed as a consequence of the injurious effects of the repeated selling out of small farms, which had fallen into trouble, by the great landed proprietors. The dimensions to which this so-called *Bauernlegung*, selling out of peasant farms, has grown, may be gathered from the fact that within the last fourteen years over 12,000

smaller farms have been assimilated by the great landed estates. The colonization law (*Wiederbesiedlungsgesetz*) of the year 1919 slipped a bolt, here, by decreeing that under certain conditions all such farms or cottages as could be worked individually and had been independent since 1870, should be returned to the farmers who had formerly been on them. Naturally the preparatory work took some time, so that the lists of the farms fit for colonization were finished only in June, 1921. An idea of the number of farms concerned may be gathered from the fact that in 240 communities of Lower Austria, alone, 1,100 farms have been entered in the registers. The opposition of the great landed proprietors has been so far vanquished by the pressure brought to bear on it by the peasants that in many cases they were ready to enter into negotiations with the peasantry. This peaceful adjustment serves to accelerate the enforcement of the colonization law, since the long investigation of the colonization commissions and the delays caused by remonstrances, which might be raised in the course of the legal procedure, may be thus avoided.

By such measures Austrian agriculture may soon be intensified, a development which, in the light of the preceding statements, is a consummation to be sincerely wished by every Austrian.

CHAPTER III

The Water Power Question in Austria

By DR. FRIEDRICH HERTZ

Vienna

AUSTRIA'S poverty in coal is partly compensated by the abundance of her water power; nor is the statement correct, though so often repeated, that

Austria has as yet made no real use of this natural resource. There are now in existence innumerable old power stations beside many modern installa-